

Hello. My name is Jake Leonard. I am 31 years old and I live in Newtown, CT where I have resided with my family these past 8 years. I have a beautiful wife Erica and an amazing son who is currently 4 years old named Sean. The recent horrible events have rocked this town, state, and country to its very foundation. We have gotten a look at evil that will forever change all of us. Now in the wake of that tragedy we are all attempting to determine the best course of action to keep our children and ourselves safe.

I would like to start by saying I do not believe in the slightest that the new direction on firearms or the laws that are being proposed for them in this state are relevant or helpful at all to what we are attempting to accomplish. I have seen legislation for magazine capacity reduction. I have seen a law proposed for a 50% increase on taxes for all ammunition purchases and to prohibit online sales. I have seen registration laws for firearms that would include more fees for merely owning firearms. And I have seen laws for the banning of modern sporting rifles which have been misnamed "assault" rifles in order to drive home the point to your constituents.

When I look at these laws I see nothing but greed and general ignorance of firearms and their purpose. As well, I see our rights as citizens being trampled on. Our Constitution, which we have sworn to uphold, put aside for political agendas. I ask any of you how a 50% tax increase on ammunition helps to save lives? The average box of 20 rounds of .223 ammunition that was used in these horrible killings costs on average about 7 dollars a box. Are you in some way implying that by increasing the price to \$10.50 we are saving lives? We are talking about raising money here. Plain and simple. We are talking about taking more money out of the pockets of decent law abiding citizens who want nothing more than to defend themselves against just these sorts of attacks that have happened.

I am a husband. I am a father. I am a firearms enthusiast. I am a small business owner. I am a homeowner. I am a decent upstanding citizen. I pay my taxes on time. I have no criminal history. I am a competitor in nationally sanctioned events that use just these sorts of firearms to compete against one another. I also fully believe in the right to personal defense. I have no fear of firearms or the people I have been lucky enough to know who have no fear of them. I fear what all of us at our fundamental core fear. Evil men who want nothing more than to hurt people because they can. I plead with you all to not undermine with feel good legislation, one of the only defenses against them we have and to not fill yourselves up with feel good laws that criminals will never follow or abide by.

Lowered magazine capacity, registration, more taxes for law abiding citizens and loss of online sales. These things do not save lives. There is only one thing that saves lives. Vigilance. Making sure that we are able and prepared to face the threats when they come. Hiding behind the illusion of feel good measures will not help us. More security and more vigilance on our parts will help to save lives. That has been proven time and time again. We are at a critical juncture as a state and as a nation and it is important we start making the right decisions.

Sincerely,

Jacob M. Leonard
Newtown, CT